

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

To:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
 United States Patent and Trademark
 Office
 Box PCT
 Washington, D.C. 20231
 ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 06 June 2000 (06.06.00)	
International application No. PCT/US99/24304	Applicant's or agent's file reference Cain 11
International filing date (day/month/year) 18 October 1999 (18.10.99)	Priority date (day/month/year) 30 October 1998 (30.10.98)
Applicant CAIN, Michael, B. et al	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

☒ in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:
06 March 2000 (06.03.00)

☐ in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election ☒ was
☐ was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland	Authorized officer C. Villet
Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38

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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

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0500

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference CAIN 11	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US99/24304	International filing date (day/month/year) 18 OCTOBER 1999	Priority date (day/month/year) 30 OCTOBER 1998
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC(7): C01B 33/12 and US Cl.: 423/335; 65/414		
Applicant CORNING INCORPORATED		

- This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
- This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets.
☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority. (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 0 sheets.

- This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of report with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

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TC 1700

Date of submission of the demand 06 MARCH 2000	Date of completion of this report 07 FEBRUARY 2001
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231	Authorized officer STUART HENDRICKSON DEBORAH THOMAS PARALEGAL SPECIALIST
Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Telephone No. (703) 308-0661

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US99/24304

I. Basis of the report**1. With regard to the elements of the international application:***

- ☒ the international application as originally filed
- ☒ the description:
pages 1-13 , as originally filed
pages NONE , filed with the demand
pages NONE , filed with the letter of _____
- ☒ the claims:
pages 14-18 , as originally filed
pages NONE , as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
pages NONE , filed with the demand
pages NONE , filed with the letter of _____
- ☒ the drawings:
pages 1-3 , as originally filed
pages NONE , filed with the demand
pages NONE , filed with the letter of _____
- ☒ the sequence listing part of the description:
pages NONE , as originally filed
pages NONE , filed with the demand
pages NONE , filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in printed form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☒ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☒ the description, pages NONE
- ☒ the claims, Nos. NONE
- ☒ the drawings, sheets/fig NONE

5. ☐ This report has been drawn as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

**Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US99/24304

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>1-18, 20-22</u>	YES
	Claims	<u>19</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims	<u>NONE</u>	YES
	Claims	<u>1-22</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-22</u>	YES
	Claims	<u>NONE</u>	NO

2. citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Claim 19 lacks novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by Randall 3883336.

Randall teaches in col. 1 lines 10-15 an optical fiber preform- which is the product being claimed.

Claims 1-18 and 20-22 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Randall '336 in view of WO 97/22553. Randall teaches in col. 2 a process wherein metal salts in aqueous solution are atomized and fed into a reaction zone; separately, a silicon source is similarly fed as well. As the metals used by Randall is the same as claimed, their role will inherently be the same even though they are called a dopant.

Randall does not teach the exact method of simultaneous atomization at the reaction site, and does not teach features of dependent claims such as using siloxanes, WO '553 teaches on pgs. 13 and 17 that atomization should occur at the conversion site for optimum yields. Therefore, using the techniques of '553 in the process of Randall is an obvious expedient to improve efficiency and prevent fouling of the reactor.

Claim 1-22 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(4), because the process has industrial applicability to make optical materials.

Claims 1-18 and 20-22 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2), because no one reference in the prior art teaches the claimed process steps.

----- NEW CITATIONS -----
NONE

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference Cain 11	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/US 99/ 24304	International filing date (day/month/year) 18/10/1999	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 30/10/1998
Applicant CORNING INCORPORATED et al.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 4 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

2. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).

3. ☐ Unity of invention is lacking (see Box II).

4. With regard to the title,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☒ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

1

☐ None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 99/ 24304

Box III TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

The present invention is directed to methods of producing soot used in the manufacture of optical waveguides. Both non-aqueous liquid reactants and aqueous solutions containing one or more salts are delivered through an atomizing burner assembly to form a homogenous soot stream containing the oxides of the selected elements contained within the non-aqueous liquid reactant and the aqueous solution. The resulting multi-component soot is collected by conventional methods to form preforms used in the manufacture of optical waveguide fibers. Alternatively, an aqueous solution may be atomized with a gas at a first burner assembly to form an aerosol and a reactant vaporized for delivery to a second burner assembly. Preforms produced by the methods are also disclosed. The aqueous solution is preferably one comprising a metal salt, e.g. acetate, nitrate, sulfate, carbonate, chloride, hydroxide. The metal of the metal salt is preferably an alkali metal, an alkaline earth metal, lead, lanthanum, cobalt, antimony, erbium, aluminum, neodymium, praseodymium.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 99/24304

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 C03B37/014 C03B19/14

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C03B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 97 22553 A (CORNING INC.) 26 June 1997 (1997-06-26)	19
Y	page 17, line 14 - line 29; claims 1-23; figures 1-4	1-18, 20-22
X	US 3 883 336 A (E.N.RANDALL) 13 May 1975 (1975-05-13)	19-22
Y	column 2, line 29 - line 63; figure 1; examples I,V,VII column 3, line 16 - line 21	1-18, 20-22
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 7, no. 27, 3 February 1983 (1983-02-03) & JP 57 183089 A (NT&T CORP.), 11 November 1982 (1982-11-11) abstract	19-22
	--- -/-	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

22 February 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

02/03/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3018

Authorized officer

Stroud, J

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 99/24304

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 026 625 A (NT&T CORP.) 8 April 1981 (1981-04-08)	19
Y	the whole document	20-22
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 6, no. 35, 3 March 1982 (1982-03-03) - & JP 56 155035 A (NT&T CORP.), 1 December 1981 (1981-12-01)	19
Y	abstract page 227, column 7	20-22
A	EP 0 535 862 A (AT&T CO.) 7 April 1993 (1993-04-07) column 5, line 10 - line 46; figure 3	1, 11, 19, 20
A	EP 0 463 783 A (AT&T CO.) 2 January 1992 (1992-01-02) the whole document	1, 11, 19, 20
P, X	WO 99 06331 A (CORNING INC.) 11 February 1999 (1999-02-11) cited in the application	19
P, Y	page 12, line 8 - line 23; claims 1-12; figures 1-4	1, 11, 20
P, X	WO 99 03781 A (CORNING INC.) 28 January 1999 (1999-01-28) cited in the application	19
P, Y	page 11, line 22 - page 12, line 2; claims 1-10; figures 1-4	1, 11, 20

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 99/24304

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9722553 A	26-06-1997	AU 1520697 A BR 9611969 A CA 2233021 A EP 0868401 A	14-07-1997 17-02-1999 26-06-1997 07-10-1998
US 3883336 A	13-05-1975	NONE	
JP 57183089 A	11-11-1982	NONE	
EP 0026625 A	08-04-1981	JP 1237753 C JP 57016443 A JP 59014412 B JP 1235869 C JP 57017441 A JP 59011538 B JP 1237743 C JP 56050134 A JP 59013453 B CA 1166527 A US 4336049 A US 4388098 A	31-10-1984 27-01-1982 04-04-1984 17-10-1984 29-01-1982 16-03-1984 31-10-1984 07-05-1981 29-03-1984 01-05-1984 22-06-1982 14-06-1983
JP 56155035 A	01-12-1981	NONE	
EP 0535862 A	07-04-1993	US 5212757 A DE 69215478 D DE 69215478 T JP 2552062 B JP 6115963 A	18-05-1993 09-01-1997 27-03-1997 06-11-1996 26-04-1994
EP 0463783 A	02-01-1992	US 5110335 A JP 4228444 A	05-05-1992 18-08-1992
WO 9906331 A	11-02-1999	AU 8293098 A	22-02-1999
WO 9903781 A	28-01-1999	AU 7963298 A US 5979185 A	10-02-1999 09-11-1999

Patent Abstracts of Japan

PUBLICATION NUMBER : 57183089
PUBLICATION DATE : 11-11-82

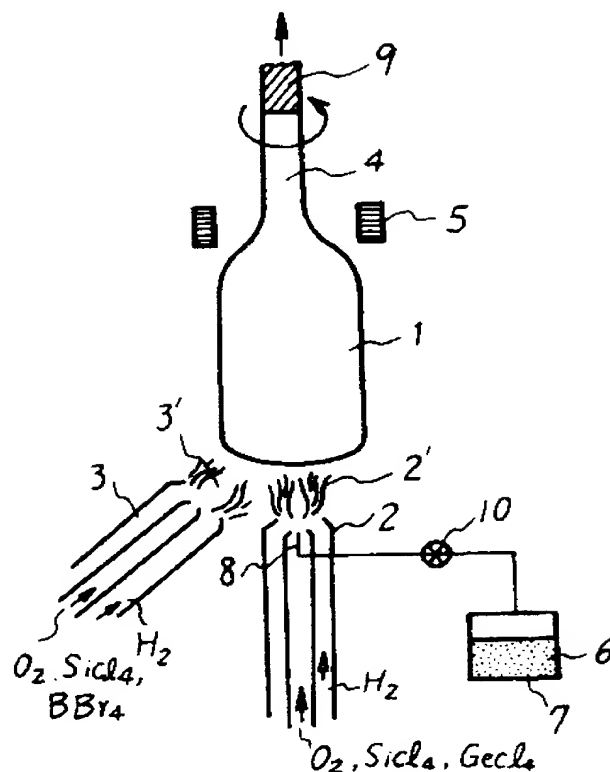
APPLICATION DATE : 06-05-81
APPLICATION NUMBER : 56067974

APPLICANT : NEC CORP;

INVENTOR : SHIRAKI KENICHI;

INT.CL. : H01S 3/17 C03B 15/14 C03C 3/28

TITLE : MANUFACTURE OF QUARTZ GLASS ROD



ABSTRACT : PURPOSE: To make the distribution of the refractive index in a porous material rod which is to be a material for a glass base material rod and improve laser efficiency by heat-decomposing water solution which contains elements which are to be activating ions for laser operation with the materials.

CONSTITUTION: A starting quartz glass rod 9 is fixed above an oxyhydrogen burner 2 for central part growth and rotated at the rate of 20 revolution per minute. H_2 and O_2 which has passed through $SiCl_4$ liquid and $GeCl_4$ liquid are supplied to the burner 2 and burning and heat-decomposition are carried out. At the same time, O_2 which has passed through $SiCl_4$ and BBr_4 and H_2 are supplied to an oxyhydrogen burner 3 for circumference part growth and burning and heat-decomposition are carried out. Then a porous material rod is made grow at the tip of the starting rod, the rod is lifted slowly, a cock 10 between an $NdCl_3$ vessel 7 and a nozzle 8 is opened and $NdCl_3$ solution is supplied to a flame 2' of the burner 2. Under condition, the porous material rod is made grow continuously and its bottom end is lifted to the position of carbon heater 5. Then the porous material rod is heated by applying current to the heater 5 and a transparent quartz glass rod is obtained.

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Patent Abstracts of Japan

PUBLICATION NUMBER : 56155035
PUBLICATION DATE : 01-12-81

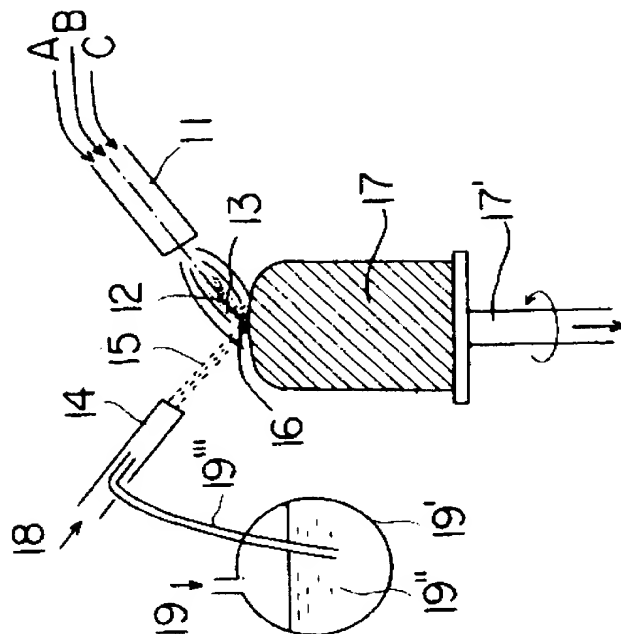
APPLICATION DATE : 25-04-80
APPLICATION NUMBER : 55055765

APPLICANT : SUMITOMO ELECTRIC IND LTD;

INVENTOR : TANAKA SHIGERU;

INT.CL. : C03B 37/00 C03C 3/06 C03C 25/00 // G02B 5/14

TITLE : LIGHT TRANSMITTING FIBER AND ITS PREPARATION



ABSTRACT : **PURPOSE:** A light transmitting fiber, having a small increase in the transmission loss under the radiation environment, and consisting of high-purity silica glass containing an oxide, e.g. Ce oxide, in a high-refractive index part and a low-refractive index silica glass, e.g. a plastic, in a low-refractive index part respectively.

CONSTITUTION: SiH_4 gas (B) diluted with He gas is fed from an oxyhydrogen burner 11 into a flame 12 formed by feeding combustion H_2 gas (A) and O_2 gas (C) into the oxyhydrogen burner 11 to form fine glass particles of SiO_2 . At the same time, an aqueous solution of a Ce compound is jetted from a nozzle 14 in the form of a mist 15 to laminate fine glass particles 16 containing Ce_2O_3 and CeO_2 in the glass particles or on the outside thereof on a target 17' and form a glass soot or transparent glass material 17 thereon. A flowing out gas 18 is fed if necessary to the nozzle 14, and a compressing gas 19 is further fed into an aqueous solution 19' in an aqueous solution container 19' to form a mist aqueous solution 15 by the nozzle 14. As a result, a light transmitting fiber having a small increase in the loss even under the radiation environment can be obtained.

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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁷ : C03B 37/014, 19/14	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/26151 (43) International Publication Date: 11 May 2000 (11.05.00)		
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top; padding: 5px;"> (21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/24304 (22) International Filing Date: 18 October 1999 (18.10.99) (30) Priority Data: 60/106,513 30 October 1998 (30.10.98) US (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): CORNING INCORPORATED [US/US]; 1 Riverfront Plaza, Corning, NY 14831 (US). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): CAIN, Michael, B. [US/US]; 7 Pond View, Painted Post, NY 14870 (US). HAWTOF, Daniel, W. [US/US]; 40 Fox Lane Extension, Painted Post, NY 14870 (US). SRIKANT, V. [IN/US]; 107 East State Street, #301, Ithaca, NY 14850 (US). (74) Agent: CARLSON, Robert, L.; Corning Incorporated, Patent Dept., SP TI 3-1, Corning, NY 14831 (US). </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top; padding: 5px;"> (81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i> </td> </tr> </table>			(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/24304 (22) International Filing Date: 18 October 1999 (18.10.99) (30) Priority Data: 60/106,513 30 October 1998 (30.10.98) US (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): CORNING INCORPORATED [US/US]; 1 Riverfront Plaza, Corning, NY 14831 (US). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): CAIN, Michael, B. [US/US]; 7 Pond View, Painted Post, NY 14870 (US). HAWTOF, Daniel, W. [US/US]; 40 Fox Lane Extension, Painted Post, NY 14870 (US). SRIKANT, V. [IN/US]; 107 East State Street, #301, Ithaca, NY 14850 (US). (74) Agent: CARLSON, Robert, L.; Corning Incorporated, Patent Dept., SP TI 3-1, Corning, NY 14831 (US).	(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/24304 (22) International Filing Date: 18 October 1999 (18.10.99) (30) Priority Data: 60/106,513 30 October 1998 (30.10.98) US (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): CORNING INCORPORATED [US/US]; 1 Riverfront Plaza, Corning, NY 14831 (US). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): CAIN, Michael, B. [US/US]; 7 Pond View, Painted Post, NY 14870 (US). HAWTOF, Daniel, W. [US/US]; 40 Fox Lane Extension, Painted Post, NY 14870 (US). SRIKANT, V. [IN/US]; 107 East State Street, #301, Ithaca, NY 14850 (US). (74) Agent: CARLSON, Robert, L.; Corning Incorporated, Patent Dept., SP TI 3-1, Corning, NY 14831 (US).	(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>			
(54) Title: METHODS OF MANUFACTURING SOOT FOR OPTICAL FIBER PREFORMS AND PREFORMS MADE BY THE METHODS				
(57) Abstract <p>The present invention is directed to methods of producing soot used in the manufacture of optical waveguides. Both non-aqueous liquid reactants and aqueous solutions containing one or more salts are delivered through an atomizing burner assembly to form a homogenous soot stream containing the oxides of the selected elements contained within the non-aqueous liquid reactant and the aqueous solution. The resulting multi-component soot is collected by conventional methods to form preforms used in the manufacture of optical waveguide fibers. Alternatively, an aqueous solution may be atomized with a gas at a first burner assembly to form an aerosol and a reactant vaporized for delivery to a second burner assembly. Preforms produced by the methods are also disclosed. The aqueous solution is preferably one comprising a metal salt, e.g. acetate, nitrate, sulfate, carbonate, chloride, hydroxide. The metal of the metal salt is preferably an alkali metal, an alkaline earth metal, lead, lanthanum, cobalt, antimony, erbium, aluminum, neodymium, praseodymium.</p>				

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CN	China	KR	Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CU	Cuba	KZ	Kazakstan	RO	Romania		
CZ	Czech Republic	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
DE	Germany	LI	Liechtenstein	SD	Sudan		
DK	Denmark	LK	Sri Lanka	SE	Sweden		
EE	Estonia	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		

**METHODS OF MANUFACTURING SOOT
FOR OPTICAL FIBER PREFORMS AND PREFORMS
MADE BY THE METHODS**

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FIELD OF THE INVENTION

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The present invention relates to the formation of soot used in the manufacture of glass and, more particularly, to a method of delivering liquid precursors and other reactants into a flame to create soot for use in the manufacture of optical waveguides, and optical waveguides made by the method.

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While the invention is subject to a wide range of glass soot applications, it is particularly well suited for the deposition of soot on a target to form preforms used in the manufacture of optical fibers, and will be particularly described in that connection.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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Various processes are known in the art that involve the production of oxides, and particularly, metal oxides from vaporous reactants. Such processes require a feedstock solution or precursor, a means of generating and transporting vapors of the feedstock solution (hereafter called vaporous reactants) and an oxidant to a conversion reaction site (also known as a soot reaction zone or combustion zone to those skilled in the art), and a means of catalyzing oxidation and combustion coincidentally to produce finely divided, spherical aggregates, called soot. This soot can be collected in any

number of ways, ranging from capture in a collection chamber to deposition on a rotating mandrel. The collected soot may be simultaneously or subsequently heat treated to form a non-porous, transparent, high purity glass article. This process is usually carried out with specialized equipment having a unique arrangement of nozzles, injectors, burners and/or burner assemblies.

Much of the initial research that led to the development of such processes focused on the production of bulk silica. Selection of the appropriate feedstock was an important aspect of that work. Consequently, it was at that time determined that a material capable of generating a vapor pressure of between 200-300 millimeters of mercury (mm Hg) at temperatures below approximately 100°C would be useful for making such bulk silica. The high vapor pressure of silicon tetrachloride (SiCl_4) suggested its usefulness as a convenient vapor source for soot generation and launched the discovery and use of a series of similar chloride-based feedstocks. This factor, more than any other is responsible for the presently accepted use of SiCl_4 , GeCl_4 , POCl_3 , and BCl_3 as feedstock vapor sources.

Use of these and other halide-based feedstocks as vapor sources, however, does have its drawbacks. The predominate drawback being the formation of hydrochloric acid (HCl) as a by-product of oxidation. HCl is not only detrimental to the deposition substrates and the reaction equipment, but to the environment as well. Overcoming this drawback, amongst others, led to the use of halide-free compounds as precursors or feedstocks for the production of soot for optical waveguides.

Although use of halide-free silicon compounds as feedstocks for fused silica glass production, as described in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,043,002 and 5,152,819, for example, avoids the formation of HCl, other problems remain, particularly when the soot is intended for the formation of optical waveguides. It has been found that, in the course of delivering a vaporized polyalkylsiloxane to the burner, high molecular weight species can be deposited as gels in the lines carrying the vaporous reactants to the burner, or within the burner itself. This leads to a reduction in the deposition rate of the soot that is subsequently consolidated to a blank from which an optical waveguide fiber is drawn. It also

leads to imperfections in the blank that often produce defective and/or unusable optical waveguide fiber from the effected portions of the blank. An additional problem encountered while forming silica soot using siloxane feedstocks is the deposition of particulates having high molecular weights and high boiling points on the optical waveguide fiber blank. The build-up of these particulates results in "defect" or "clustered defect" imperfections that adversely affect the optical and structural quality of optical waveguides formed using the silica soot.

Other feedstocks, some of which are, and others of which may be useful in forming soot for the manufacture of optical waveguides are not currently acceptable alternatives to the halide-based and halide-free feedstocks for delivery via vapor deposition. Materials such as salts and those known as rare-earth elements, for example, are extremely unstable as vapors and often decompose before they can be delivered in their vapor phase. Rather than being delivered from the burner as a vapor, these elements tend to form solids that plane out of the solution.

Although it is often possible to deliver at least a percentage of these elements to the combustion zone as a vapor, it is technically very difficult. Elaborate systems incorporating expensive equipment are necessary to convert these elements to the vapor phase, and further, to deliver them to the combustion zone without leaving behind deposits of solids in the lines leading to the burners and in the burners themselves. Moreover, if multiple elements are being delivered as vapors and a specific percentage of each is necessary for the desired composition, it is difficult to control the delivery to provide that percentage since different elements have different vapor pressures.

U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 08/767,653, discloses that these and other limitations can be overcome by delivering a feedstock to an injector or burner in liquid form, atomizing the feedstock to form an aerosol containing fine droplets of the liquid feedstock, and converting the atomized liquid feedstock into soot at the combustion zone. The injectors, burners, and burner assemblies disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 08/767,653 rely on very small orifices to deliver the liquid in a fine stream for proper

atomization. Because the feedstocks are delivered directly into the burner flame as liquids rather than vapors, the vapor pressures of the feedstocks are no longer limiting factors for delivery. Accordingly, many additional elements can now be delivered as feedstocks or dopants to form soot for use in the manufacture of optical waveguides.

A number of elements however, particularly those which are typically categorized as salts, are not easily delivered to a flame in liquid form as an organometallic compound. The purity requirements are often extremely high, as are the costs associated with attempting to obtain compounds of the required purity.

There is a need therefore, for a method of manufacturing soot for use in making optical waveguides, and particularly preforms for optical waveguide fibers that enables a user to precisely control the quantity of elements being delivered, and at the same time, eliminates gelling in the delivery lines.

Further, what is needed is a liquid delivery method that produces glass soot containing metal oxides, traditional dopants, and salts in the required stoichiometry without requiring expensive and elaborate equipment.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed to a method for delivering liquids and other reactants to a combustion zone adjacent a burner assembly to produce soot for use in the manufacture of glass. In a liquid delivery system, a liquid reactant, capable of being converted by thermal oxidative decomposition to glass, is provided and introduced directly into the combustion zone of a combustion burner, thereby forming finely divided amorphous soot. Examples of such liquid delivery systems are disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/767,653, filed December 17, 1996, and entitled "Method and Apparatus for Forming Fused Silica by Combustion of Liquid Reactants"; U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/903,501, filed July 30, 1997, and entitled "Method for Forming Silica by Combustion of Liquid Reactants Using Oxygen"; U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/089,869, filed June 3, 1998, and entitled "Method and Apparatus for Forming Silica by Combustion of Liquid Reactants Using a

Heater"; U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/068,255, filed December 19, 1997, entitled "Burner and Method for Producing Metal Oxide Soot"; and U.S. Provisional Application, filed July 31, 1998, and entitled "Method and Apparatus for Forming Soot for the Manufacture of Glass," the specifications of which are hereby incorporated by reference. The amorphous soot can be captured in any number of ways, but is typically deposited on a receptor surface where, either substantially simultaneously with or subsequent to its deposition, the soot is consolidated into a body of fused glass. The body of glass may then be either used to make products directly from the fused body, or the fused body may be further treated, e.g., by forming an optical waveguide such as by drawing to make optical waveguide fiber as further described in, for example, U.S. Patent Application No. 08/574,961 entitled, "Method for Purifying polyalkylsiloxane and the Resulting Products", the specification of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

The method of the present invention provides a number of advantages over other glass soot production methods known in the art. The present invention provides the capability of precisely varying and controlling the composition of the soot produced, which in turn provides for optical waveguide fibers having well defined and highly accurate index profiles, and other characteristics. The present invention further affords the industry with a method of concurrently delivering the greatest number of elements to a flame, to produce a multi-component glass soot. Any of a number of the organometallics, the rare earth elements, and now salts can all be concurrently delivered to a flame to produce homogenous soot. Similarly, these elements can be concurrently, or selectively delivered during the same soot production run to produce a preform meeting specific layering requirements. Accordingly, an optical fiber preform made by the method of the present invention has the advantage of containing precise quantities of elements, some of which have never been combined within a single optical waveguide fiber preform.

To achieve these and other advantages, a non-aqueous liquid reactant and an aqueous solution are atomized to form an aerosol made up of numerous liquid droplets. The aerosol is delivered into a combustion zone and

reacted in the flame of the combustion zone to form finely divided glass soot particles.

5 In another aspect of the invention, a non-aqueous liquid reactant and an aqueous solution are delivered to a burner assembly. The non-aqueous liquid reactant and the aqueous solution are discharged from the burner assembly into a flame where they are reacted to form soot. The soot is deposited onto a target to form a preform.

10 In yet another aspect of the invention, an optical fiber preform is formed by the process of delivering a non-aqueous liquid reactant and an aqueous solution to a burner assembly. The non-aqueous liquid reactant and the aqueous solution are discharged from the burner assembly into a flame as an aerosol formed of a plurality of non-aqueous liquid reactant droplets and a plurality of liquid aqueous solution droplets. The droplets are reacted in the flame to produce soot and the soot is deposited on a target to form the preform.

15 In a further aspect of the invention, the delivery of an aqueous solution is combined with conventional vapor delivery. The aqueous solution is atomized with a gas at a burner assembly to form an aerosol made up of numerous liquid droplets, and another reactant is vaporized for delivery to the burner assembly. The vaporous reactant and the aerosol are reacted in a combustion zone adjacent the burner assembly to form finely divided glass soot.

20 Additional features and advantages of the invention will be set forth in the detailed description, which follows, and in part will be apparent from the description, or may be learned by practice of the invention. It will be understood by those skilled in the art that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are exemplary and explanatory in nature and are intended to provide further explanation of the invention as claimed.

30 The accompanying drawings are included to provide a further understanding of the invention, and are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification. The drawings illustrate several embodiments of the

invention, and together with the description serve to explain the principles of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

5 FIG. 1 schematically depicts a first preferred embodiment of a liquid delivery system used in the method of the present invention.

 FIG. 2 schematically depicts a second preferred embodiment of a liquid delivery system used in the method of the present invention.

10 FIG. 3 schematically depicts a preferred embodiment of a combined vapor and liquid delivery system used in the method of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

 A number of soot collection and soot deposition techniques are employed in the manufacture of glass products. While the present invention is capable of being employed in a number of these techniques, it is particularly well suited for those techniques used to deposit soot on a target to form glass preforms used in the manufacture of optical waveguides, and specifically optical waveguide fibers. It will be understood by those skilled in the art, however, that the method of the present invention can be used in the manufacture of planar waveguides as well.

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 During the manufacture of optical waveguide fibers, soot typically is uniformly deposited on or within a target. The collected soot is consolidated into a high purity glass preform and thereafter subjected to further processing steps such as drawing to form a thin fiber capable for carrying and directing light. Accordingly, the present invention will be described in this regard. It will be understood by those skilled in the optical waveguide fiber art, however, that there are other systems and variations of the depicted systems in which the present invention can be incorporated to perform the functions described and claimed herein. Reference will now be made in detail to the present preferred embodiments of the invention, examples of which are schematically illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

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A first preferred embodiment of the system for delivering liquids into a combustion zone to form multi-component soots for use in the manufacture of glass is schematically depicted in FIG. 1. Liquid delivery system 10 includes an aqueous solution reservoir 12 containing aqueous solution 14, a non-
5 aqueous liquid reactant reservoir 16 containing a non-aqueous liquid reactant 18, and optionally, a dopant reservoir 20 containing a dopant 22. In addition, liquid delivery system 10 includes an atomizing burner assembly 26 such as an atomizing burner assembly and the associated delivery mechanisms (hereinafter, "burner assembly") disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Serial No.
10 08/767,653, filed December 17, 1996, and entitled "Method and Apparatus for Forming Fused Silica by Combustion of Liquid Reactants"; U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/903,501, filed July 30, 1997, and entitled "Method for Forming Silica by Combustion of Liquid Reactants Using Oxygen"; U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/089,869, filed June 3, 1998, and entitled "Method and
15 Apparatus for Forming Silica by Combustion of Liquid Reactants Using a Heater"; U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/068,255, filed December 19, 1997, entitled "Burner and Method for Producing Metal Oxide Soot"; and U.S. Provisional Application, filed July 31, 1998, and entitled "Method and Apparatus for Forming Soot for the Manufacture of Glass", the specifications of
20 which are hereby incorporated by reference.

In operation, aqueous solution 14, non-aqueous liquid reactant 18, and dopant 22 are mixed according to the desired stoichiometry and stored within their respective reservoirs 12, 16, and 20. Aqueous solution 14 preferably contains a water soluble salt such as an alkali metal nitrate, alkali metal
25 carbonate, alkali metal sulfate, alkali metal acetate, alkaline earth metal nitrate, alkaline earth metal carbonate, alkaline earth metal sulfate, or alkaline earth metal acetate. More specifically, aqueous solution 14 contains one or more water soluble salts such as barium nitrate, barium acetate, barium chloride, strontium nitrate, strontium acetate, strontium chloride, antimony nitrate,
30 antimony acetate, lead nitrate, lead carbonate, lead sulfate, lead acetate, lanthanum nitrate, lanthanum carbonate, lanthanum sulfate, lanthanum acetate, cobalt nitrate, cobalt acetate, cobalt chloride, neodymium nitrate,

neodymium praseodymium chloride, potassium nitrate, potassium chloride, nitrate, cesium nitrate, cesium chloride, cesium sulfate, cesium hydroxide, calcium chloride aluminum nitrate, sodium nitrate, sodium chloride, erbium chloride, and erbium sulfate, but can contain other salts and/or other elements capable of being mixed in and delivered as an aqueous solution.

Non-aqueous liquid reactant 18 is preferably a liquid organometallic compound such as octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane, but can be a silicon alkoxide, a metal alkoxide, or other siliceous matrix material made soluble with a suitable organic solvent, such as ethylene glycol monomethylether. Dopant 22, if used, can be ketonates, alkoxides, acetates, β -diketonates, or fluoro- β -diketonates of praseodymium, holmium, and thulium dissolved in a suitable organic solvent such as ethylene glycol monomethylether. Typically, the preferred dopants 22 are erbium, germanium, and other rare earth elements having properties beneficial for use in optical waveguide fibers.

Aqueous solution 14, non-aqueous liquid reactant 18, and if desired, dopant 22 are delivered via liquid delivery lines 24 to burner assembly 26 in the desired quantities. Liquids 14, 18, and 22 are discharged from burner assembly 26 into flame 28 as atomized liquid droplets 30. Liquid droplets 30 are uniformly mixed in the atomization process and are reacted in the flame 28 to produce a soot stream 32. Soot stream 32 is preferably directed toward a target, such as rotating mandrel 34 as burner assembly 26 traverses along the length of rotating mandrel 34, resulting in the deposition of soot on rotating mandrel 34, which in turn forms a homogenous soot body 36 containing the desired quantities of oxides of the elements contained in aqueous solution 14, non-aqueous liquid reactant 18, and dopant 22.

A second preferred embodiment of the system for delivering liquids into a combustion zone to form multi-component soots for use in the manufacture of glass is schematically depicted in FIG. 2. Like the first preferred embodiment, liquid delivery system 40 includes an aqueous solution reservoir 42 for storing aqueous solution 44, a non-aqueous liquid reactant reservoir 46 for storing a non-aqueous liquid reactant 48, and optionally, a dopant reservoir 50 for storing a dopant 52. However, unlike the first preferred embodiment of

the invention, liquid delivery system 40 includes a first burner assembly 56 in selective fluid communication with non-aqueous liquid reactant reservoir 46 and dopant reservoir 50, and a second burner assembly 66 in fluid communication with aqueous solution reservoir 42. As described below, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that aqueous solution 44 and non-aqueous liquid reactant 48 can include one or more of the compounds described above with respect to the first preferred embodiment of the present invention.

In operation, aqueous solution 44 is selectively delivered to second burner assembly 66 and non-aqueous liquid reactant 48, and dopant 52, if desired, are selectively delivered to first burner assembly 56. First burner assembly 56 discharges atomized liquid droplets 60 into a flame 58 where the liquid droplets 60 are combusted to form a soot stream 62 containing a homogeneous mixture of oxides produced from the oxidization of the selected elements contained within non-aqueous liquid reactant 48 and dopant 52. Second burner assembly 66 can be activated concurrently with or independently of first burner assembly 56 to discharge atomized liquid droplets 70 into a flame 68 to form a homogeneous soot stream 72 containing oxides of the element resulting from the oxidation of elements contained in aqueous solution 44. Soot stream 62 and 72 are preferably directed toward a target such as rotating mandrel 74, and soot from the soot streams 62 and 72 is deposited on rotating mandrel 74 in uniform layers as first burner assembly 56 and second burner assembly 66 traverse along the length of rotating mandrel 74. The resulting soot body 76 contains all of the oxides from soot streams 62 and 72 according to the rate at which they are delivered.

The multiple burner assemblies of this embodiment of the present invention generally facilitate a greater soot deposition rate than the first embodiment of the present invention. In addition, the spaced arrangement of the burner assemblies 56 and 66 enable the soot to be deposited in discrete layers which provides a controlled and cost effective way of making an optical waveguide having well defined index profiles and other optical characteristics.

FIG. 3 schematically depicts a preferred embodiment of a combined vapor and liquid delivery system 80 used in practicing the method of the present invention. The combined vapor and liquid delivery system 80 includes an aqueous solution reservoir 82 for storing aqueous solution 84 and a liquid delivery line 90 for placing a first burner assembly 94 in communication with aqueous solution 84. In addition, combined vapor and liquid delivery system 80 includes a vapor delivery system 86 for delivering a vaporous reactant 88 through liquid delivery line 92 to a second burner assembly 96. Vapor delivery system 86 can be any vapor delivery system known in the art such as, but not limited to, vapor delivery systems disclosed in US Patent No. 5,043,002, and US Patent No. 3,698,936, the specifications of which are hereby incorporated by reference. Vaporized reactant 88 is preferably a halide-based feedstock such as, but not limited to, SiCl_4 , or a halide-free based feedstock such as, but not limited to, octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane. Aqueous solution 14 preferably contains a water soluble salt such as an alkali metal nitrate, alkali metal carbonate, alkali metal sulfate, alkali metal acetate, alkaline earth metal nitrate, alkaline earth metal carbonate, alkaline earth metal sulfate, or an alkaline earth metal acetate. More specifically, aqueous solution 84 contains one or more water soluble salts such as barium nitrate, barium acetate, barium chloride, strontium nitrate, strontium acetate, strontium chloride, antimony nitrate, antimony acetate, lead nitrate, lead carbonate, lead sulfate, lead acetate, lanthanum nitrate, lanthanum carbonate, lanthanum sulfate, lanthanum acetate, cobalt nitrate, cobalt acetate, cobalt chloride, neodymium nitrate, neodymium chloride, potassium nitrate, potassium chloride, praseodymium nitrate, cesium nitrate, cesium chloride, cesium sulfate, cesium hydroxide, calcium chloride, aluminum nitrate, sodium nitrate, sodium chloride, erbium chloride, and erbium sulfate, but can contain other salts and/or other elements capable of being mixed in and delivered as an aqueous solution.

In operation, aqueous solution 84 is selectively delivered to burner assembly 94, and vaporized reactant 88 is delivered to second burner assembly 96. Aqueous solution 84 is atomized with a gas such as air, but preferably oxygen, or oxygen together with an inert gas such as nitrogen, at

first burner assembly 94 to form an aerosol formed of a plurality of liquid droplets ranging generally in size from about 10 microns to 200 microns. The majority of droplets will typically be about 20 microns in size. Atomized liquid droplets 98 are discharged into a first flame 100 formed adjacent first burner assembly 94 where atomized liquid droplets 98 are combusted to form a first soot stream 102 containing a homogenous mixture of oxides produced from the oxidation of the selected elements contained within aqueous solution 84. Vaporous reactant 88 is delivered through vapor delivery line 92 and second burner assembly 96 as vapors 104 which are discharged into second flame 106 formed adjacent second burner assembly 96. Vapors 104 are combusted in second flame 106 to form a second soot stream 108 containing a homogenous mixture of oxides produced from the oxidation of the selected elements contained within vaporous reactant 88. First and second soot streams 102, 108, respectively, are directed toward a target, such as rotating mandrel 110, and the soot within soot streams 102 and 108 is deposited on rotating mandrel 110 in uniform layers as first burner assembly 94 and second burner assembly 96 traverse along the length of rotating mandrel 110. The resulting soot body 112 contains all the oxides from first and second soot streams 102 and 108, respectively, according to the rate at which they are delivered.

Although not shown in FIG. 3, an additional burner assembly and associated delivery mechanisms can be incorporated into the system shown in FIG. 3 to deliver additional dopants commonly used in the manufacture of soot for optical waveguide fibers. This embodiment of the present invention combines the higher soot deposition rate of vapor deposition with the unique optical characteristics provided by salts delivered in an aqueous solution. It will be understood by those skilled in the art that vaporous reactant 88 and aqueous solution 84 can be delivered into a common flame to produce a homogenous soot stream which can be collected in any manner commonly known in the art and thereafter further processed to form optical waveguides, and particularly preforms for optical waveguide fibers.

Although not shown in the drawing figures, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that the systems schematically depicted in FIGS. 1, 2 and 3, are not limited to the number of burner assemblies and associated delivery mechanisms shown in the drawings. Each system can incorporate additional burner assemblies and associated delivery mechanisms to practice the methods of the present invention. Generally speaking, the greater the number of burner assemblies, the greater the soot deposition rate. Moreover, the present invention can be used in conjunction with other vapor delivery systems commonly known in the art to provide even greater flexibility in the manufacture of soot for optical waveguide fibers.

It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and variations can be made in the methods of manufacturing soot for optical fiber preforms of the present invention without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention. Thus, it is intended that the present invention cover the modifications and variations of this invention provided they come within the scope of the appended claims and their equivalents. In addition, the corresponding structures, materials, acts and equivalents of all means or step plus function elements in the claims below are intended to include any structure, material, or acts for performing the function in combination with other claimed elements as specifically claimed herein.

WE CLAIM:

1. A method of making soot from which an optical fiber preform is made, said method comprising the steps of:

- 5 a) atomizing a non-aqueous liquid reactant and an aqueous solution to form an aerosol comprising numerous liquid droplets,
- b) delivering said aerosol into a combustion zone; and
- c) reacting said aerosol in a flame provided at said combustion zone to form finely divided glass soot particles.

10 2. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said non-aqueous liquid reactant comprises a non-aqueous solution.

15 3. The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the step of delivering said non-aqueous liquid reactant and said aqueous solution to a single burner assembly prior to atomizing said non-aqueous liquid reactant and said aqueous solution.

20 4. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein prior to step a), the method further comprises the steps of:

 delivering said non-aqueous liquid reactant to a first burner assembly;

 and

 delivering said aqueous solution to a second burner assembly spaced from said first burner assembly.

25 5. The method as claimed in claim 4 further comprising the steps of:

 atomizing said non-aqueous liquid reactant at said first burner assembly to form a first aerosol; and

 atomizing said aqueous at said second burner assembly, to form a

30 second aerosol.

6. The method as claimed in claim 5 further comprising the steps of:

reacting said first aerosol in a first flame produced adjacent said first burner assembly; and

reacting said second aerosol in a second flame produced adjacent said second burner assembly.

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7. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said non-aqueous liquid reactant comprises at least one precursor and at least one dopant.

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8. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said non-aqueous liquid reactant comprises a siloxane, and wherein said aqueous solution comprises a salt.

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9. The method as claimed in claim 8 wherein said salt is selected from the group consisting of alkali metal nitrate, alkali metal carbonate, alkali metal sulfate, alkali metal acetate, alkaline earth metal nitrate, alkaline earth metal carbonate, alkaline earth metal sulfate, alkaline earth metal acetate, barium nitrate, barium acetate, barium chloride, strontium nitrate, strontium acetate, strontium chloride, antimony nitrate, antimony acetate, lead nitrate, lead carbonate, lead sulfate, lead acetate, lanthanum nitrate, lanthanum carbonate, lanthanum sulfate, lanthanum acetate, cobalt nitrate, cobalt acetate, cobalt chloride, neodymium nitrate, neodymium chloride, potassium nitrate, potassium chloride, praseodymium nitrate, cesium nitrate, cesium chloride, cesium sulfate, cesium hydroxide, calcium nitrate, calcium chloride, aluminum nitrate, sodium nitrate, sodium chloride, erbium chloride, and erbium sulfate.

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10. The method as claimed in claim 9 wherein said non-aqueous liquid reactant further comprises a dopant.

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11. A process for making an optical fiber preform, said process comprising the steps of:

a) delivering a non-aqueous liquid reactant and an aqueous solution to a burner assembly;

b) discharging said non-aqueous liquid reactant and said aqueous solution from said burner assembly into a flame;

c) reacting said non-aqueous liquid reactant and said aqueous solution in said flame to produce soot; and

5 d) depositing said soot onto a rotating mandrel.

12. The process of claim 11 wherein step b) includes the step of atomizing said non-aqueous liquid reactant and said aqueous solution to form an aerosol comprising a plurality of non-aqueous liquid reactant droplets mixed with a
10 plurality of liquid aqueous solution droplets.

13. The process of claim 12 wherein the step of atomizing occurs as said non-aqueous liquid reactant and said aqueous solution are discharged from said burner assembly.

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14. The process of claim 11 wherein said burner assembly comprises a first burner assembly and a second burner assembly spaced from said first burner assembly, and wherein said non-aqueous liquid reactant is discharged from said first burner assembly as a first aerosol comprising a plurality of non-
20 aqueous liquid reactant droplets, and wherein said aqueous solution is discharged from said second burner assembly as a second aerosol comprising a plurality of liquid aqueous solution droplets.

15. The process of claim 14 wherein said flame comprises a first flame adjacent said first burner assembly and a second flame adjacent said second burner assembly, and wherein said first aerosol is reacted in said first flame, and wherein said second aerosol is reacted in said second flame.

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16. The process as claimed in claim 11 wherein said non-aqueous liquid reactant comprises at least one precursor and at least one dopant.

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17. The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein said non-aqueous liquid reactant comprises a siloxane, and wherein said aqueous solution comprises a salt.

5 18. The method as claimed in claim 17 wherein said salt is selected from the group consisting of alkali metal nitrate, alkali metal carbonate, alkali metal sulfate, alkali metal acetate, alkaline earth metal nitrate, alkaline earth metal carbonate, alkaline earth metal sulfate, alkaline earth metal acetate, barium nitrate, barium acetate, barium chloride, strontium nitrate, strontium acetate,
10 strontium chloride, antimony nitrate, antimony acetate, lead nitrate, lead carbonate, lead sulfate, lead acetate, lanthanum nitrate, lanthanum carbonate, lanthanum sulfate, lanthanum acetate, cobalt nitrate, cobalt acetate, cobalt chloride, neodymium nitrate, neodymium chloride, potassium nitrate, potassium chloride, praseodymium nitrate, cesium nitrate, cesium chloride, cesium
15 sulfate, cesium hydroxide, calcium nitrate, calcium chloride, aluminum nitrate, sodium nitrate, sodium chloride, erbium chloride, and erbium sulfate.

19. An optical fiber preform formed by the process of :

20 a) delivering a non-aqueous liquid reactant and an aqueous solution to a burner assembly;

b) discharging said non-aqueous liquid reactant and said aqueous solution from said burner assembly into a flame as an aerosol comprising a plurality of non-aqueous liquid reactant droplets and a plurality of liquid aqueous solution droplets;

25 c) reacting said plurality of non-aqueous liquid reactant droplets and said plurality of liquid aqueous solution droplets in said flame to produce soot; and

d) depositing said soot onto a target.

30 20. A method of making soot from which an optical fiber preform is made, said method comprising the steps of:

a) atomizing an aqueous solution with a gas at a first burner assembly to form an aerosol comprising a plurality of droplets ranging in size from about 10 microns to 200 microns;

b) vaporizing a reactant for delivery to a second burner assembly;
5 and

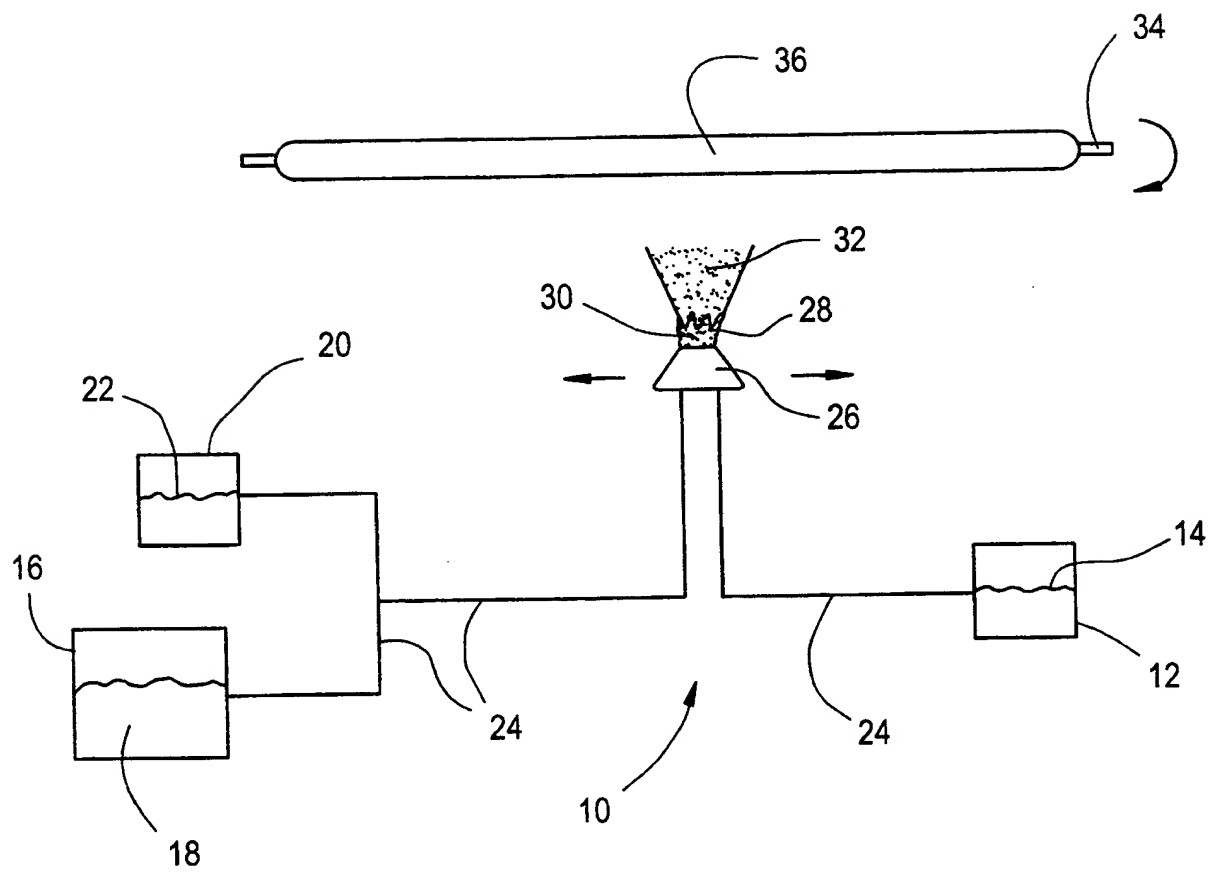
c) reacting the vaporous reactant and the aerosol within a combustion zone adjacent the first and second burner assemblies to form at least one soot stream.

10 21. The method as claimed in claim 20 wherein said reactant is selected from the group consisting of a halide-based silicon containing compound and a halide-free silicon-containing compound.

15 22. The method as claimed in claim 20 wherein said aqueous solution comprises a salt selected from the group consisting of alkali metal nitrate, alkali metal carbonate, alkali metal sulfate, alkali metal acetate, alkaline earth metal nitrate, alkaline earth metal carbonate, alkaline earth metal sulfate, alkaline earth metal acetate, barium nitrate, barium acetate, barium chloride, strontium nitrate, strontium acetate, strontium chloride, antimony nitrate, antimony acetate, lead nitrate, lead carbonate, lead sulfate, lead acetate, lanthanum nitrate, lanthanum carbonate, lanthanum sulfate, lanthanum acetate, cobalt nitrate, cobalt acetate, cobalt chloride, neodymium nitrate, neodymium chloride, potassium nitrate, potassium chloride, praseodymium nitrate, cesium nitrate, cesium chloride, cesium sulfate, cesium hydroxide, calcium nitrate, calcium chloride, aluminum nitrate, sodium nitrate, sodium chloride, erbium chloride, and erbium sulfate.
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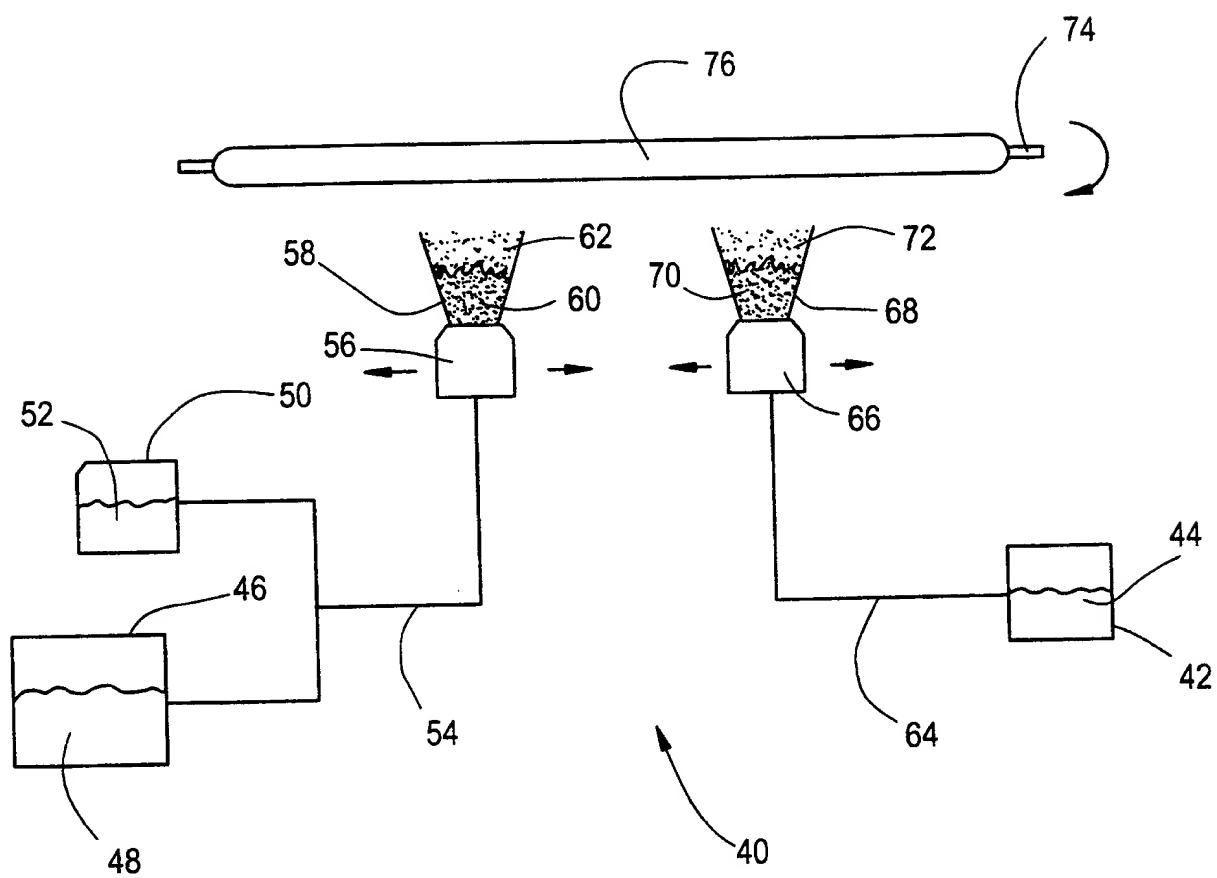
1 / 3

FIG. 1



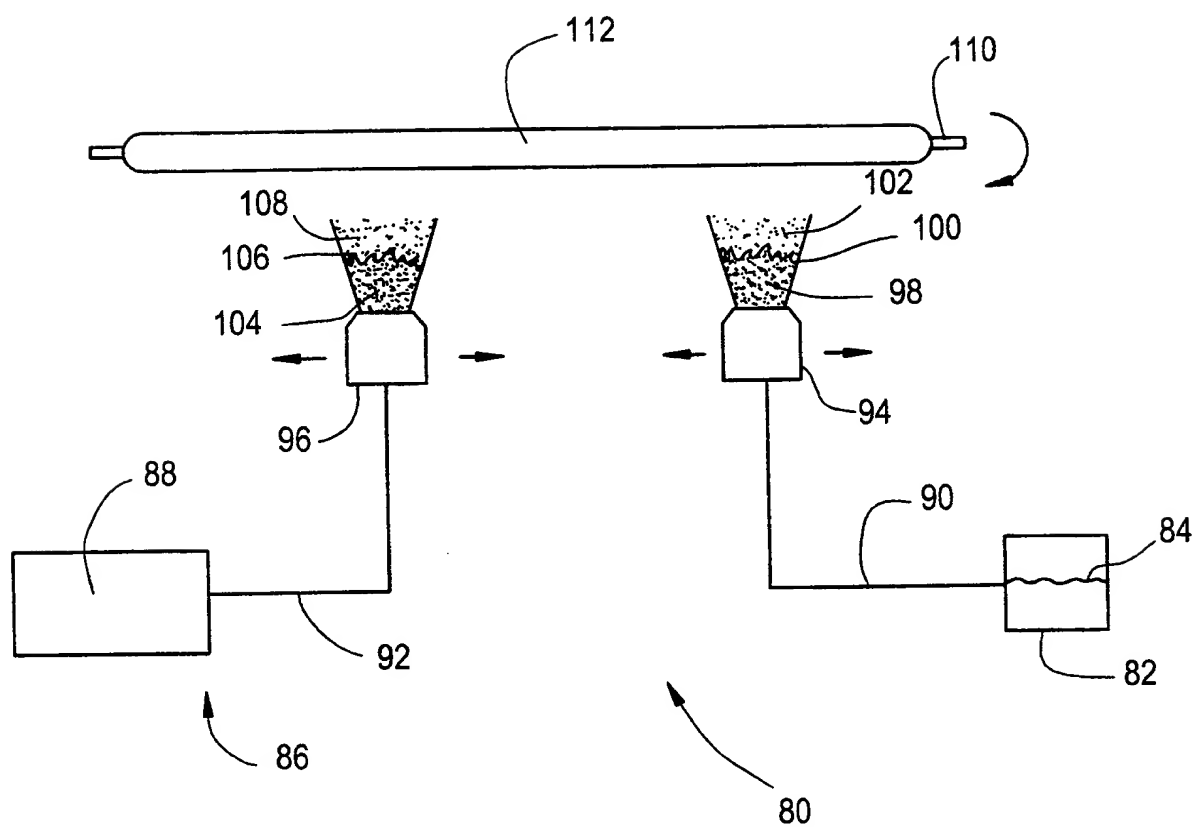
2 / 3

FIG. 2



3 / 3

FIG. 3



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Internati Application No

PCT/US 99/24304

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 C03B37/014 C03B19/14

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C03B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 97 22553 A (CORNING INC.) 26 June 1997 (1997-06-26)	19
Y	page 17, line 14 - line 29; claims 1-23; figures 1-4	1-18, 20-22
X	US 3 883 336 A (E.N.RANDALL) 13 May 1975 (1975-05-13)	19-22
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☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

22 February 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
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